

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A multimedia distributing method comprising:  
transmitting multimedia data having a first resolution; and  
separately transmitting supplemental data, which, when combined with the  
multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second  
5 resolution that is higher than the first resolution.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein transmitting multimedia data  
and separately transmitting supplemental data are at least partially separated in  
transmission time, space, channel and/or medium.  
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3. A method according to Claim 1:  
wherein transmitting multimedia data comprises streaming multimedia data  
having a first resolution; and  
wherein separately transmitting supplemental data comprises downloading  
15 supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first  
resolution, provides the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than  
the first resolution.
4. A method according to Claim 1:  
20 wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first  
compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first  
distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors  
and/or a first coding rate; and  
wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling  
25 frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio  
that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider  
than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater  
than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than  
the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first  
30 number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second  
number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding  
rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

5. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the supplemental data is of a first size and wherein the multimedia content at the second resolution is of a second size that is larger than the first size.

5 6. A method according to Claim 1:  
wherein transmitting multimedia data is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and  
wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights  
10 management scheme.

7. A method according to Claim 1:  
wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is preceded by receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the  
15 multimedia data having a first resolution.

8. A method according to Claim 1:  
wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed in real or near real-time;  
and  
20 wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is not performed in real or near real-time.

9. A method according to Claim 1:  
wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed from a first multimedia  
25 server; and  
wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is performed from a second multimedia server that is different from the first multimedia server.

10. A method according to Claim 1:  
30 wherein transmitting multimedia data is performed using a wireless network;  
and  
wherein separately transmitting supplemental data is performed using a wired network.

11. A method of transmitting a multimedia work comprising:  
streaming a first portion of the multimedia work; and  
downloading a second portion of the multimedia work, wherein the first and  
second portions together comprise the multimedia work.

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12. A method according to Claim 11:  
wherein streaming comprises streaming multimedia data at a first resolution;  
and  
wherein downloading comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when  
10 combined with the multimedia data at a first resolution, provides the multimedia work  
at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein streaming and downloading  
are at least partially separated in transmission time, space, channel and/or medium.

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14. A method according to Claim 12:  
wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first  
compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first  
distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a  
20 first number of channels and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling  
frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio  
that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider  
than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater  
25 than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than  
the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first  
number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second  
number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of  
channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate  
30 that is higher than the first coding rate.

15. A method according to Claim 11:  
wherein streaming is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein downloading is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

16. A method according to Claim 11:  
5 wherein downloading is preceded by receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the streaming.

17. A method according to Claim 11:  
wherein streaming is performed from a first multimedia server; and  
10 wherein downloading is performed from a second multimedia server that is different from the first multimedia server.

18. A method according to Claim 11:  
wherein streaming is performed using a wireless network; and  
15 wherein downloading is performed using a wired network.

19. A multimedia playing method comprising:  
receiving multimedia data having a first resolution;  
separately receiving supplemental data, which, when combined with the  
20 multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;  
combining the multimedia data having a first resolution and the supplemental data to provide the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and  
25 playing the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

20. A method according to Claim 19 further comprising:  
playing the multimedia data at the first resolution.  
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21. A method according to Claim 20 wherein playing the multimedia data at the first resolution is performed prior to playing the multimedia content at the second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

22. A method according to Claim 19 wherein receiving, separately receiving, combining and playing are performed in a single user device.

23. A method according to Claim 19 wherein receiving multimedia data and separately receiving supplemental data are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

24. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein receiving multimedia data comprises streaming multimedia data having a first resolution; and  
wherein separately receiving supplemental data comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

25. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and  
wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

26. A method according to Claim 19 wherein the supplemental data is of a first size and wherein the multimedia content at the second resolution is of a second size that is larger than the first size.

27. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein receiving multimedia data is subject to a first digital rights  
management scheme; and  
wherein separately receiving supplemental data is subject to a second digital  
rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management  
5 scheme.
28. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein separately receiving supplemental data is preceded by providing  
10 payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is provided for the  
multimedia data having a first resolution.
29. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein receiving multimedia data is performed in real or near real-time; and  
15 wherein separately receiving supplemental data is not performed in real or  
near real-time.
30. A method according to Claim 19:  
wherein receiving multimedia data is performed using a wireless network; and  
20 wherein separately receiving supplemental data is performed using a wired  
network.
31. A method of playing a multimedia work comprising:  
streaming a first portion of the multimedia work;  
25 downloading a second portion of the multimedia work;  
combining the first and second portions of the multimedia work to generate  
the multimedia work; and  
playing the multimedia work that is generated.
- 30 32. A method according to Claim 31:  
wherein streaming comprises streaming the multimedia work at a first  
resolution;

wherein downloading comprises downloading supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia work at a first resolution, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

5 wherein the combining comprises combining the multimedia work at a first resolution and the supplemental data to generate the multimedia work at the second resolution; and

wherein playing comprises playing the multimedia work at the second resolution.

10 33. A method according to Claim 32 further comprising:  
playing the multimedia work at the first resolution.

34. A method according to Claim 33 wherein playing the multimedia work  
at the first resolution is performed prior to playing the multimedia work at the second  
15 resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

35. A method according to Claim 31 wherein streaming, downloading,  
combining and playing are performed in a single user device.

20 36. A method according to Claim 31 wherein streaming and downloading  
are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel  
and/or medium.

25 37. A method according to Claim 32:  
wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first  
compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first  
distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a  
first number of channels and/or a first coding rate; and

30 wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling  
frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio  
that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider  
than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater  
than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than  
the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first

number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

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38. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein streaming is subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

wherein downloading is subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

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39. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein downloading is preceded by providing payment for the second portion that is greater than payment that is provided for the first portion.

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40. A method according to Claim 31:

wherein streaming is performed using a wireless network; and

wherein downloading is performed using a wired network.

41. A multimedia distribution system comprising:

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an encoder that is responsive to input multimedia content and that is configured to encode the input multimedia content at a first resolution and to generate supplemental data, which, when combined with the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution, provides the input multimedia content encoded at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and

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a transmitter that is responsive to the encoder and that is configured to separately transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and the supplemental data.

42. The system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is

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configured to separately transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and the supplemental data at least partially separated in transmission time, space, channel and/or media.



43. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is further configured to stream the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution and to download the supplemental data.

5 44. A system according to Claim 41:

wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and

10 wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than  
15 the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

20 45. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution subject to a first digital rights management scheme and to separately transmit the supplemental data subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

25 46. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to separately transmit the supplemental data in response to receiving payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is received for the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution.

30 47. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the input multimedia content that is encoded at a first resolution in real or near real-time and to separately transmit the supplemental data in other than real or near real-time.

48. A system according to Claim 41 wherein the transmitter comprises:  
a first multimedia server that is configured to transmit the input multimedia  
content that is encoded at a first resolution; and

5 a second multimedia server that is configured to transmit the supplemental  
data.

49. A system for transmitting a multimedia work comprising:  
a streaming server that is configured to transmit a first portion of the  
10 multimedia work; and

a downloading server that is configured to transmit a second portion of the  
multimedia work, wherein the first and second portions together comprise the  
multimedia work.

15 50. A system according to Claim 49:

wherein the streaming server is configured to stream multimedia data at a first  
resolution; and

wherein the downloading server is configured to download supplemental data,  
which, when combined with the multimedia data at a first resolution, provides the  
20 multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

51. A system according to Claim 49:

wherein the streaming server is configured to transmit the first portion of the  
multimedia work subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and

25 wherein the downloading server is configured to transmit the second portion  
of the multimedia work subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is  
different from the first digital rights management scheme.

52. A system according to Claim 49:

30 wherein the downloading server is configured to transmit the second portion  
of the multimedia work subject to receiving payment for the second portion that is  
greater than payment that is received for the first portion.

53. A multimedia playing system comprising:

a receiver that is configured to receive multimedia data having a first resolution and to separately receive supplemental data, which, when combined with the multimedia data having a first resolution, provides multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

5 a processor that is configured to combine the multimedia data having a first resolution and the supplemental data to provide the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution; and

a multimedia transducer that is configured to play the multimedia content at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

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54. A system according to Claim 53 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia data having a first resolution.

55. A system according to Claim 53 wherein the supplemental data is at  
15 least partially separated from the multimedia data having a first resolution in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

56. A system according to Claim 53:  
wherein the receiver is further configured to stream the multimedia data  
20 having a first resolution and download the supplemental data.

57. A system according to Claim 53:  
wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first  
compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first  
25 distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors  
and/or a first coding rate; and

wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling  
frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio  
that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider  
30 than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater  
than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than  
the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first  
number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second

number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

58. A system according to Claim 53:

5 wherein the receiver is further configured to receive the multimedia data having a first resolution subject to a first digital rights management scheme and to separately receive the supplemental data subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

10 59. A system according to Claim 53:

wherein the receiver is configured to separately receive the supplemental data subject to providing payment for the supplemental data that is greater than payment that is provided for the multimedia data having a first resolution.

15 60. A system for playing a multimedia work comprising:

a receiver that is configured to stream a first portion of the multimedia work and to download a second portion of the multimedia work;

a processor that is configured to combine the first and second portions of the multimedia work to generate the multimedia work; and

20 a multimedia transducer that is configured to play the multimedia work that is generated.

61. A system according to Claim 60:

25 wherein the receiver is configured to stream the multimedia work at a first resolution and to download the second portion as supplemental data, which, when combined with the first portion, provides the multimedia work at a second resolution that is higher than the first resolution;

30 wherein the processor is configured to combine the multimedia work at a first resolution and the supplemental data to generate the multimedia work at the second resolution; and

wherein the multimedia transducer is configured to play the multimedia work at the second resolution.

62. A system according to Claim 61 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia work at the first resolution.

63. A system according to Claim 62 wherein the multimedia transducer is further configured to play the multimedia work at the first resolution prior to playing the multimedia work at the second resolution that is higher than the first resolution.

64. A system according to Claim 60 wherein the first and second portions of the multimedia work are at least partially separated in receiving time, originating space, receiving channel and/or medium.

65. A system according to Claim 61:  
wherein the first resolution comprises a first sampling frequency, a first compression ratio, a first frequency range, a first number of bits of resolution, a first distortion level, a first number of pixels, a first frame rate, a first number of colors, a first number of colors and/or a first coding rate; and  
wherein the second resolution comprises, respectively, a second sampling frequency that is higher than the first sampling frequency, a second compression ratio that is lower than the first compression ratio, a second frequency range that is wider than the first frequency range, a second number of bits of resolution that is greater than the first number of bits of resolution, a second distortion level that is lower than the first distortion level, a second number of pixels that is greater than the first number of pixels, a second frame rate that is greater than the first frame rate, a second number of colors that is greater than the first number of colors, a second number of channels that is greater than the first number of channels and/or a second coding rate that is higher than the first coding rate.

66. A system according to Claim 60:  
wherein the receiver is configured to stream the first portion subject to a first digital rights management scheme; and  
wherein the receiver is configured to download the second portion subject to a second digital rights management scheme that is different from the first digital rights management scheme.

67. A system according to Claim 60:

wherein the receiver is configured to download the second portion subject to payment for the second portion that is greater than payment that is provided for the first portion.